

## 50-State Comparison: English Learner Policies

### Is parent membership required on EL advisory councils or committees?

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Federal law requires that schools and districts effectively communicate with all parents and guardians that speak a language other than English. Title I of the Every Student Succeeds Act also requires local education agencies to conduct effective outreach to parents of English learners, including regular parent meetings. There is no federal requirement that states or districts establish community or parent advisory councils or committees, or that they include parents as members of advisory councils or committees. However, at least 13 states have established advisory councils or committees and included parents as members. The following information was gathered from state statutes and regulations only. For more information, visit the [state EL guidance documents](#).

View the full 50-State Comparison: English Learners [here](#).

| STATE       | IS PARENT MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED ON EL ADVISORY COUNCILS OR COMMITTEES   |
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| Federal Law | <p>Each local education agency that receives funds under Title I must implement an effective means of outreach to parents of ELs. The outreach must include holding regular meetings in order to gather and respond to recommendations from parents. A local education agency receiving a Title III funds must conduct parent, family, and community engagement.</p> <p>There is no federal requirement that states or districts establish parent advisory councils, or include parents on other advisory councils or committees.</p> |
| Alabama     | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| Alaska      | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| Arizona     | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| Arkansas    | Not found in statute or regulation.   |

| STATE                | IS PARENT MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED ON EL ADVISORY COUNCILS OR COMMITT   |
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| California           | School districts with more than 50 ELLs and schools with more than 20 ELLs have district or school advisory committees on education programs and services for ELLs. Parents of ELLs elect the parent members of the committees.  |
| Colorado             | Not found in statute or regulation.  |
| Connecticut          | Not found in statute or regulation.  |
| Delaware             | Not found in statute or regulation.  |
| District of Columbia | Not found in statute or regulation.  |
| Florida              | Not found in statute or regulation.  |
| Georgia              | Not found in statute or regulation.  |
| Hawaii               | Not found in statute or regulation.  |
| Idaho                | Not found in statute or regulation.  |
| Illinois             | Each school district is required to establish a parent advisory committee to allow parental involvement in and consultation on the planning, operation and evaluation of EL programs. The majority of committee membership must be parents of children enrolled in the transitional bilingual education program. |
| Indiana              | Not found in statute or regulation.  |
| Iowa                 | Not found in statute or regulation.  |
| Kansas               | Not found in statute or regulation.  |
| Kentucky             | Not found in statute or regulation.  |
| Louisiana            | Not found in statute or regulation.  |
| Maine                | Not found in statute or regulation.  |
| Maryland             | Not found in statute or regulation.  |

| STATE          | IS PARENT MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED ON EL ADVISORY COUNCILS OR COMMITT  |
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| Massachusetts  | Schools serving more than 100 English learners or whose students are comprised of at least 5% of English learners must establish an EL parent advisory council.   |
| Michigan       | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| Minnesota      | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| Mississippi    | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| Missouri       | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| Montana        | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| Nebraska       | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| Nevada         | The state requires the creation of an English mastery council where at least two members of the 16-member English mastery council are parents or legal guardians of ELL students.   |
| New Hampshire  | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| New Jersey     | Each district board of education that implements a bilingual education program is required to establish a parent advisory committee on bilingual education. The majority of members of the committee must be parents of English language learners.  |
| New Mexico     | To be eligible for financial support, each bilingual multicultural education program is required to establish a parent advisory committee, representative of the languages and cultures of all the students in the program, to assist and advise in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the program. |
| New York       | The state requires a city-wide council on English language learners in New York City only. The council must include nine voting members who are parents of students who are in a bilingual or English as a second language program.   |
| North Carolina | Not found in statute or regulation.   |

| STATE          | IS PARENT MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED ON EL ADVISORY COUNCILS OR COMMITT  |
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| North Dakota   | Parents may be appointed to the EL program advisory committee by the superintendent, though it is not required.   |
| Ohio           | Governed by the department of education's website or EL guidebook rather than state policy.   |
| Oklahoma       | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| Oregon         | The department of education is required to convene an advisory group regarding EL programs. The group must consist of 15 members, including educators, parents, culturally-specific community stakeholders, experts on EL policy and experts in collecting and analyzing data.  |
| Pennsylvania   | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| Rhode Island   | LEAs are required to appoint an LEA-wide ELL Advisory Committee consisting of parents and educators.  |
| South Carolina | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| South Dakota   | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| Tennessee      | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| Texas          | Each school district that is required to offer bilingual education and special language programs must establish a language proficiency assessment committee. The committee must include a parent of a limited English proficiency student, a bilingual educator, a transitional language educator and a campus administrator.                                     |
| Utah           | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| Vermont        | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| Virginia       | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| Washington     | Governed by the department of education's website or EL guidebook rather than state policy.   |
| West Virginia  | Not found in statute or regulation.   |
| Wisconsin      | In school districts with bilingual-bicultural education programs, the school board may appoint a bilingual-bicultural advisory committee. The committee must include parents, bilingual and other teachers, bilingual teacher aides, counselors and counselor aides (bilingual and otherwise), and a community and school district administration representative. |

| STATE   | IS PARENT MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED ON EL ADVISORY COUNCILS OR COMMITT                            |
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| Wyoming | Governed by the department of education's website or EL guidebook rather than state policy. |